A

NARRATIVE

of the

Proceedings at the Sessions,

HELD IN

Iustice-Hall

AT THE

OLD-BALY.

SHEWING

The Several Crimes of the Mallefactors;

VIZ.

Treasons, | *Burglaries,*
Murthers, | and
Robberies, | *Fellonies.*

There were Sixteen burned in the hand, Three Men, and Three VVomen Condemned, but two of them pleaded their Bellies, and were Reprieved by the Court; there were four to be transported, and one to stand in the Pillory.

With Allowance; Roger L'Estrange.

Printed for John Pillet. 1676.

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Edith Anonanet; Roger L'Estrange.
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A Narrative of the Proceedings at the Seſsions, &c.

EVery Age, nay, every Seſsions brings forth new Crimes, and many times more Prodigious then the former, of which I ſhall give you a Curſery: the firſt account of ſuch as were try'd this Seſsions in the *Old-Bayly*, was a Murther committed by a Boy, aged thirteen years and a Month: in Chriſtmas time he unhappily quarrel'd with another Boy, being his Fellow-Apprentice, about their Aprons: the Priſoner cut the others Apron-ſtrings, and the other attempting to cut his, the Priſoner took a Three-penny Knife, and ſtab'd him in the Belly: then he run out, and cryed, *Lord Jeſus Receive my Soul*, Daniel *has Kill'd me*: The Young Youth was committed to the *Gate-houſe*, he living neer *Weſtminſter*, and from thence brought to *Newgate*, and Try'd at the *Old-Bayly*: he had been taught how to excuſe the Fact, but his Memory was as much Corrupted as his mind, ſo that he made an imperfect excuſe, pretending that he had the Knife in his hand, and the other came running towards him, and ſtumbled upon the point of his Knife, but it appeared to be otherwiſe to the Jury, and they brought him in, Guilty of Manſlaughter.

The next Fact appeared to be much more Barbarous then the former, a man living in *white-chappel*, was Arreſted by a *Marſhal's-man*, and as ſoon as the Officer told him of the Arreſt, he with a bloody hand, and

barbarous mind, thruſt a very ſtrange Weapon into his Belly, that being done, with as much vigour and as little ſence and grace, he thruſt at another, but his nimble body eſcaped his malicious purpoſe, and an unexpected Multitude ſurprized him, and took him Priſoner: when the danger of his further miſchief was over, they begun to parley with him, and asked why he would do ſo Barbarous an act? he replyed, *That if he had not Kill'd the Bayliff, he ſhould have gone to the* Marſhalley *on foot, but now he was to go to* Newgate *in a Coach*: but though he ſeemed to be of a reſolute mind, and of an undaunted courage, yet by a ſerious conſideration, he pleaded eagerly to excuſe the Fact, but all in vain, for he was found, Guilty of Murther.

After theſe, another was brought to the Bar for Murther, it appeared that he was making a joynt-ſtool in *Clarendon*-houſe, and one that ſeem'd to have ſome intereſt there, told him that he ſhould not do it there, the other replyed, he would: then the other ſtruck him, and his ſtroaks were anſwered with a blow with a Miller, upon his arm: the other that was Killed challenged him to fight, which he refuſed to do, then he went to lock him in, but the other fruſtrated his deſigns: the ſl un ſtruck at him three or four times, and he then ſmote him on the head with his Saw, and his Hat being off, he pierc'd his Scull, and the wound reached very neer his Brains, upon which, within leſs then two days he Dyed, the Provocations being conſidered by the Jury, he was onely found, Guilty of Manſlaughter.

Then

Then ſucceeded the Tryal of a very Young Youth, who was Indicted for Stealing one quarter of a Yard of Silk-Luteſtring, and a quarter of a yard of Maſcarade from a Taylor, to whom he was a Probationary Apprentice: upon his Indictment he Childiſhly and Innocently pleaded Guilty to the Fellony: but the Court, by reaſon of his Youth, ordered him to be brought back to the Barr to plead to his Bill, and he pleaded not Guilty, and was quitted.

There was like-wiſe an Iriſh-man Try'd, for Stealing two hundred pounds from his Maſter, but though ſeveral Circumſtances ſeemed to ſtick as cloſe to him as the Chain to his Leg; yet nothing could be fully proved againſt him, and therefore he was acquitted.

There was another arraigned for Fellony and Burglary, but would not Plead till his Wife, who was accuſed with him might be releaſed; The Court urg'd him in vain, and told him the Preſs was ready: he confidently replyed, that he was as ready for the Preſs: but the Court having enough to do that day, did let him alone till another, and ere that time was expired, poſsibly he would alter his Reſolution.

After this a Youth was tryed for a burglary committed in a houſe at *Finchley*: the man ſaid, his houſe was broke open, a Napkin, a Neats, and ſome ſilver ſpoons were taken away, but he knew not by whom; then another Witneſs was called, and he ſaid that he was in the Robbery with the Priſoner, the other denyed it; then the Evidence ſaid that he was in that, and in at leaſt twenty other Robberies with him, and if that would not do his buſineſs, the reſt ſhould; he pleaſed

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to know that this his accuſer was a very great Criminal, and ſaid with others, to the end they ſhould make a Candid Diſcovery: but the Iury acquitted the young man, being ſatisfied that ſuch fellows often prove lame in their proſecution, for a reward it is ſuppoſed they ſpare ſome that are Guilty, and often lay the burthen upon thoſe that leaſt deſerve it.

There was likewiſe one in the Habit of a Gentlewoman, that took a Tryal for ſtealing a Silver Tankard, and a conſiderable parcel of Money from a Citizen; the manner was thus; ſhe pretendly went to provide a Lodging for a perſon of Honour; one *Stewart* and another Iriſh Gentleman; and when ſhe had accompliſhed her Deſigns, the Gentlemen came, and were welcomly entertained; and it being Chriſtmas time, at night they went to Cards with the Landlord, the Landlady being gone a viſiting; in a little time they wanted ſome Double beer, and there was none to fetch it but the Maſter of the houſe; he therefore went to the next door and ordered the Maid to bring them in a quart or two; afterwards they wanted ſome Wine, he went the ſame way to work to ſupply their wants, but not long after they deſired him to fetch them ſome double bear himſelf; he readily obeyed the commands of his noble, and as he thought profitable gueſts, and was no ſooner gone, but they marched up ſtairs to ſeek out his treaſures, & breaking open a cloſet they found a ſilver Tankard, & a conſiderable parcel of mony, which they took, and left him to pay for the double ale, and not long after they met with this woman, and brought her to a Tryal, who

ſaid

ſaid that one of the Gentlemen was her Husband, and produc'd a Certificate to affirm it, but the Jury then brought her in guilty of the fact.

There was another woman tryed for high treaſon; the cauſe was this. She came to a ſhop at *Ludgate-hill*, and deſired them to change her a ſhilling, they perceiving it clipt told her that ſhe deſerved to be queſtioned how ſhe came by it, ſhe thereupon run away, but they being too nimble overtook her, and ſuſpecting her guilt, carryed her before a Magiſtrate, who committed her to priſon, her lodging was ſearched, and Pots, ſhears, and clippings found in it, but the Iury preſum'd to think it was her Husbands handy-work rather than hers, therefore acquitted her.

There were two men drinking, and there aroſe a diſpute between them concerning a *Spaniſh* word, one affirmed that it was not properly expreſt, the other gave him provoking language for ſaying ſo, he reply'd, Sir I know not how to bear that affront; then ſaid the other if you like it not follow me out; then he ſeemed willing, but was prevented by the reſt of the company, who laboured afterwards to compoſe their differences, and they ſeeming well reconcil'd; the company left them, about an hour after they fell to quarrelling again, and being out of doors he that gave the unſeemly language bid the other draw or elſe he would run him through; he thereupon unſheath'd his Rapier, and in the quarrel run the challenger into the arm, the neighbours ſoon put a period to their fighting, and parted them. But the wound proved mortal, and the other was therefore accuſed for the murther, but the Iury per-

perceiving by the evidence that he was compelled to draw to ſecure his life, brought in their verdict, *Se Defendendo.*

There was a man and a Woman try'd for a Burglary, but the houſe being broken open in the day time, it was eſteem'd a fellony, the man was found guilty, the other acquitted being his wife.

There was one try'd for breaking open a houſe at High-gate, taking away a braſs clock, and a *Virginy*-Nightingale, but though he was ſeen that day with the clock, yet the evidence could not ſwear thoſe things were theirs therefore he was acquitted.

There was one inuicted for cutting a Gentlewomans pocket, and taking from her a box and five ſhilings, and three groats, ſhe being apprehended upon ſuſpition, and ſearch being made they found a box like hers, and the ſame ſumm was in it, but ſhe would not ſwear that was her box, nor that her money, every like not being the ſame, therefore ſhe was in like manner acquitted.

There was a man that came to a Watch-maker, accompanied with a foot-man, who deſired to ſee ſome Watches for his Maſter; after he had ſeen many, he made choice of two of the beſt, one gold, the other ſilver, and the Apprentice was ſent with him to bring the Watch or money for them, but when he got into the Temple, he pretended to go up ſtairs to his maſter, and ſo gave the young man the ſlip, for which he was ordered to ſtand in the pillory.

There were 16 burned in the hand, 3 men and 3 women condemn'd; 2 of the women pleaded they were with Child, and therefore reprieved for a time by the Court; 4 ordered to be tranſported, & 1 to the Pillory.

FINIS.